

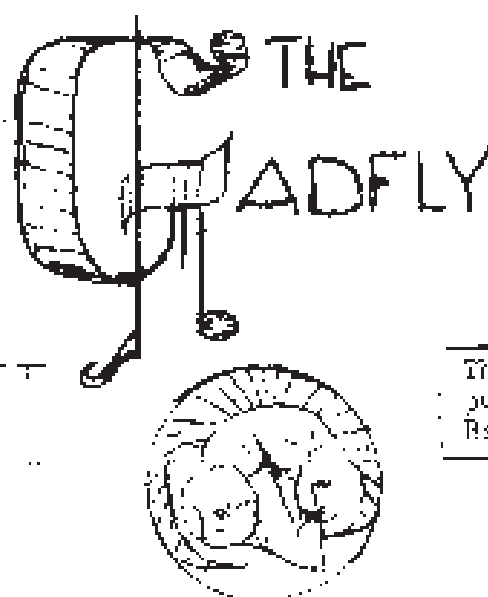
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GADFLY

Vol. 2 No. 8 November 3, 1966

Page 1	Dissension in the Ranks
Page 2	[Titles Unintelligible]



a Journal of
a New Middle

The most widely read
publication of the
Bard College Community

Vol. II, No. 8

November 3, 1966

NO COUNCIL THIS WEEK - NO QUORUM WAS
PRESENT MONDAY NIGHT

DISCUSSION IN THE HANKS

I don't pretend to argue with, or be collectively responsible for, anything and everything that appears in any given issue of the Gadfly. I did nothing at all to do with the issue of two weeks ago (#6), since I was occupied with work (yes, I'm a student here myself) and missed the editorial meeting. Hence, I feel justified in commenting adversely on two of the items we printed.

First of all, I am a bit puzzled by Tom Taylor's editorial entitled "Issues and Discussion at Bard: A Gadfly Proposal". After opening with a characteristic rhetorical flourish, Mr. Taylor flounders badly. If I didn't know better, I would accuse him of writing a filler, since he says so little at such great length.

As far as I can gather, his contention is that before the advisability of having "pass-fail" courses at Bard is discussed, there should be some groundwork laid. Specifically, there should be discussion concerning the adequacy of the present system and the appropriateness of a "pass-fail" system to the Bard educational program.

Fine and dandy. It seems implicit in any consideration of the "pass-fail" system that such questions would arise. Although I often disagree with S.D.S. and/or the Observer, I don't question their intelligence. My complaint with Mr. Taylor is that he is asking questions about the course of discussion before discussion has even begun. Further, he is asking for a consideration of factors and conditions which we have every reason to believe would have taken place even if he had said nothing. If he really is "anxious to contribute to these discussions" but reluctant because of the present "no sufficient perspectives for the formation of opinion have been established" why didn't he try to form some perspectives? Why didn't he try to answer some of the questions he raised? Granted that the raising of questions in itself is a valuable service; when he raises questions about which he feels there will be no discussion, he should take the initiative and venture some answers of his own.

My second adverse comment is in regard to "Beer and Tonale Juice" by Nora Marsh and Neil Jonsson. They conclude their pleasant little foray into the world of the unknown with the following: "If you're still hung up about endowments, ask yourself: would you rather go to a rich college or a good one?" This is, I am sure, a question to stir the blood of campaigners for academic excellence. But, to quote Louis Simpson, as were mortals we are doomed "Not to walk in the painted sunshine/ To a summer house,/ But to live in the tragic world forever." In the tragic world, "good" and "rich" are not mutually exclusive categories with regard to colleges. It could be reasonably argued that, if anything, "poverty stricken" and "good" are mutually exclusive. Unless your ideal college is located somewhere other than the lower west-end of upstate New York, you'll need buildings. They cost money. You'll also need to maintain those buildings. This also costs money. You'll need to hire, and keep, noble and idealistic professors who are willing to sit around waiting for a student to come to them. Professors also cost money. You might even go so far as to buy books for your library (you are going to have a library, aren't you?), and hire a public-relations firm to help convince respectable, middle-class parents to send their kiddies to what, from a parental point of view, might not look like such a utopia. Did I say middle-class parents? Since you're going to do without endowments, you'd really have to limit your student body to the offspring of parents who could afford the \$13,000 or \$15,000 a year this would cost them. Remember those twenty-four-hour-a-day facilities.

I would like to close with this week's meditation. It costs about \$400 a semester to print the Gadfly. It costs about \$1,000 (give or take a few hundred) a semester to keep the Observer afloat. \$400 a semester works out to about fifteen cents for each person who re-

about the traffic. So even if you think we're
only one tenth as responsible as the Observer,
maybe you could find it in your heart to give
us that fifteen cents.

Delaney T. Fortner

NOT AN ADVERTISING

Thank you for the bookstore! Once
again Mrs. Matthews and her perceptive staff
have come to the aid of beleaguered, overworked
servants. They have realized that it is not
by literary brochures alone that an individual
can find relaxation; we need a little fresh air.

Books, once described trash as being,
perhaps not good literary works, but, books
and more books (usually in paperback editions)
which are acknowledged as reminders of extra-
ordinary and stimulating moving experiences.
We have been given such books as Some Kind
For Me, H. Rider Haggard's She, and Allan
Lundy's Advice to a Son, along 100 other
titles which made up his "Treasury of Treasures".

Books are not new-fiction works as The
Bravest, Beards, Curse, Kennedy and T.H.
White's Land of the Pharaohs 1984, the
bookstore's collection includes Agatha Christie,
and Sir Archer, Albie, and Albie Big Man.
With not exactly countless prose, they're a
good one to read on a rainy Saturday after-
noon, then, say, See Book.

Ellen Rosen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(dated Oct. 10)

To the Editors of the Gazette:

It is a pleasure to be able to report
that as part one of the recommendations
made jointly by Miss Jane Forman and Mr.
Larry Bruckner in the letter which appeared in
your September 29th issue has been accepted and
implemented. I refer to their suggestion
that the library be opened early on Sundays.
The chief obstacle to doing this in the past
has not been of capital, but rather the apparent
inability to find students who would be willing
to take the necessary responsibility. This
obstacle has happily now suddenly vanished,
and henceforward the library will be open from
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Sundays.

There is no quarrel either with their
suggestion that the civil library on the
first, fourth and fifth levels of the library
be suitably blessed to eliminate the noise
barrier. Hopefully this can be accomplished
before Spring semester.

Unfortunately however, I must disagree
with them in their recommendation that the
library telephones be made more accessible to
students. It would be obvious that the phones
on that priority be made the usual to
cheapest library business. All other users
must remain sober-minded. In these terms, it
could be just as responsible to have the whole
of part of the business office, the Admissions
office or any other office enlarged. Were it
indeed so, it could not be long before both

the telephone and the limited space behind
the circulation desk would be monopolized
by students and the poor library staff be
placed in the, to put it mildly, anomalous
position of having, to say permission to go
to the phone.

This does not mean, however, that
students may not or should not suit permis-
sion for other-campus calls in emergencies.
I am certain that if this privilege is not
allowed, the staff would find it in its duty
to enforce it.

Despite this caveat, let me thank
both the letter-writers for their construc-
tive suggestions and to congratulate you for
stretching the truth of life into the Gazette.

Sincerely,

Aaron L. Fassler, Director
of the Library

(Continued, with our letter-late-than-never
policy, the editors apologize for long delay
in the appearance of Mr. Fassler's letter
due to space considerations.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Would you believe... a dance in the
Oyn Saturday night at 9:00 p.m.??

Would you believe... beer, ...
soda, cheese, and a BIRD??

Would you believe the Entertainment
Committee is sponsoring the whole affair??

Classified Section

Anyone offering a ride to New Haven
or similar points on Thursday... Please
get in touch with Frank Hobbs, box 225,
Albee 46.

THE GAZETTE

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